



**Special Edition:
Honoring Special Contributors to the Natural History of the Sandhills**

Charles Richard Burk

Dick Burk was President of the Moore County Bird Club from 1996 until his death in May of 2003. He presided over meetings, led field trips and produced the club's quarterly newsletter. But Dick's interest in birds was actually a life long passion. He traveled extensively both nationally and internationally specifically to see birds. He amassed some 700 species on his lifelist as a result of his pursuits. Before moving to Pinehurst with his wife Marion he had been president of Westfield Nature Club, Summit Nature Club and the Orner Club of New Jersey. Not only was Dick a leader in our local bird club while living in the Sandhills, but he contributed significantly to our understanding of the local avian fauna. He maintained detailed species lists and behavioral observations from all over the area. Dick also regularly monitored the bluebird boxes and surveyed the birds on the Pinehurst #8 course (The Centennial). In addition, he was responsible for creating the bird list at one of his favorite haunts, nearby Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Dick also prepared the first draft for the updated version of our Birds of the Sandhills checklist shortly before his passing. His knowledge of birds, friendly nature and adventurous spirit has been sorely missed by the birders in Moore County. By Susan Campbell.

Dr. J.H. Carter III

'Jay' Carter, a North Carolina Sandhills native, began keeping records of birds as a teenager and made numerous contributions to "The Chat" starting at age 13. The first naturalist at Weymouth Woods, a significant portion of the herbarium collection at the Preserve is the result of Jay's frequent botanizing in the piney-woods. His keen interest in the longleaf pine ecosystem contributed to a timely and long-term study of the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW); he was the first to document territories of the endangered bird within Southern Pines and Pinehurst in 1965. His efforts to raise awareness for the RCW continued into the late 70's when he and Dr. Phil Doerr at NC State University began the RCW Research Project – an extensive monitoring effort of the species within the Sandhills that has been conducted through the present day. Jay has been an advocate for many threatened and endangered species through his research and consulting, as well as involvement with local, state and national environmental groups. Jay was also one of several local citizens to pioneer the "Safe Harbor" concept in 1995 for species conservation. Thank-you, Jay for all your contributions to our appreciation and understanding of all that flies, swims, slithers and thrives in the Sandhills! By Kerry Brust

Charlotte Gantz

Lawyer, Actress, Naturalist, Author, wife and mother but best of all, friend, describe Charlotte Orr Gantz. Charlotte spent her early life at her mother's side learning about the natural world, taking a special interest in collecting fossils that she would later donate Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. After a few years as an actress on the New York stage she realized her need for new challenges and applied to Columbia Law School. With her law degree, she practiced civil law for New York City's government. Once married, she and her husband moved to Bucks County, Pennsylvania and raised twin sons. This gave Charlotte a chance to return to her roots studying the insects, birds and plants she had loved as a youngster. These interests led her to publish several books: *Discovering Nature* (Scribner's), *A Naturalist in Southern Florida* (University of Miami Press), and *Boy with Three Names* (Houghton Mifflin), and her latest - *Discovering the Forest - Sandhills Forest Life in North and South Carolina* (iUniverse). Today, Charlotte Gantz is still studying insects, birds and plants as she volunteers at both Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve and Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities where she takes loving care of the gardens. As a confidant and teacher, no one could be better. We are all very proud to call her our friend. By Kim Hyre.

Robert Johnson

Bob served as Treasurer for the Moore County Bird Club for many years. His tireless dedication to management of the club's funds and membership details was invaluable. Sandhills Natural History Society's founding originated from the records Bob meticulously maintained. Upon his retirement from recordkeeping in late 2004, the Board agreed that two individuals would be required to fill his shoes: a new Treasurer and a Chairperson for Membership. Although the breadth of his activities no longer includes outdoor pursuits, Bob's interest in Nature and the Society continues. We are thrilled that Bob is a part of SNHS and thank him for his dedicated service to our parent organization. By Susan Campbell.

Marion Jones

I first met by Marion Jones in 1965 along Muster Branch Road in Pinehurst where she showed me a partial albino fox sparrow. On the walk out, we saw a "flock" of more than 10 red-cockaded woodpeckers. Marion and I kept in touch periodically over the years about local birding and bird club issues, including birds she saw at her home in Pinehurst and later at her condominium at St. Joseph's. Marion once had a grasshopper sparrow spend part of the winter in her forested backyard in Pinehurst. She was an avid supporter of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Research Project and had a keen interest in this endangered species. She traveled the world on fishing trips; very well read, educated and spoken. A great lady - tough as nails. By Jay Carter

William Stoeffel

Bill preceded Dick Burk as President of the Moore County Bird Club and remained an active member until his death in 2002. This was a period when membership was small and attendance at meetings and activities was often quite low. But Bill's determination kept the group going nonetheless. He attracted many friends and neighbors to the bird club. Some of these were from the Southern Pines Photography Club in which he was also active. Bill's enthusiasm for nature, whether it was in his own backyard or further afield was infectious. It was unquestionably a big part of what kept local interest alive. We certainly appreciate his early enthusiasm and efforts when it came to increasing public awareness of the unique fauna found in the Sandhills. By Susan Campbell.

From the President's Desk: Susan Campbell

Elections

It is now time for us to address officers for 2007. As written in the by-laws, elections are held at the last meeting of the year, which will be later this month. One position is open for next year, that of President-Elect.

So far, we have one nominee but would encourage others to step forward at this time. Brady Beck, an active member from Pinehurst, has expressed interest in the position. Brady is a Biologist working for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission as part of the Land Management team on the Sandhills Game Land. He has worked for the WRC for 8 years and has been a natural resource professional in the Sandhills for more than 14 years. As an active member of the SNHS since its inception, he has enjoyed both the learning opportunities and camaraderie offered by the frequent field trips and meetings.

Sandhills Area Land Trust is actively raising funds for the purchase of Hobby Field.

SALT has entered into an agreement with the Estate of Virginia Moss in order to make a conservation purchase of this unique property. The 70-acre tract, which is almost entirely open grassland, provides critical breeding habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks. It is the last remaining open area of its kind in the county. This location is also where the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers raised their brood this summer.

Acquisition of the tract by SALT will ensure that it is protected from development in perpetuity. Conservation of the habitat for wildlife will be the priority, but management will also ensure the continued recreational activities enjoyed by the equestrian community as well. SALT is in need of tax-deductible contributions for this endeavor as soon as possible. Any size donation will be appreciated. Send checks to: SALT, PO Box 1032, Southern Pines, 28387

November Meeting

Monday, November 27: John Gerwin – Philopatry, Philandering, Flooding: A Look at One of America's Dullest, Most Secretive Warblers.

Meeting Time: 7:00pm—Socializing, 7:30 pm—Program.

Location: North Building, Penick Village (E. Rhode Island Ave. Extension, Southern Pines.)
Phone 692-0300 for directions.

No meeting in December.

Christmas Bird Count—December 17

This all-day bird census puts teams of birders out into specific sections of a 15-mile diameter count circle to tally as many species as possible. You don't have to be a bird watcher to participate. Contact Susan Campbell for more information, 949-3207.

Show your support of the Society with the purchase of SHNS merchandise!

MUGS (\$12) and BUMPER STICKERS (\$3) are now available and embroidered logo BASEBALL HATS (~\$17) will arrive soon.

The above items will be for sale at the November meeting. Contact Kerry seimain@pinehurst.net if you have any questions.

We plan to have T-SHIRTS (~\$10) and will notify members when available.



c/o Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve
1024 N. Fort Bragg Road
Southern Pines, NC 28387
www.sandhillsnature.org

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THE FIELD TRIP DATES

IMPORTANT CHANGE: CALL THE FIELD TRIP LEADER TO REGISTER FOR A FIELD TRIP. CALL AT LEAST ONE DAY BEFORE THE TRIP TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIP IS STILL ON SCHEDULE AND FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

If you do not have email please read this:

Our field trips often have schedule changes and we send out e-mail updates to the membership. We suggest you ask a friend who receives these emails to keep you informed. You can also periodically call the field trip leader to get the latest updates.

ANNUAL DUES

Dues are \$5 per person, payable to SNHS. We are beginning to collect dues for 2007. Send c/o Beth Carpenter, 565 Orchard Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387. Please include with your payment your address, telephone number, and, as noted above, your e-mail address.